

**Project proposal for  
Art Futures Fellowship**

**Artist-in-Residence in Athens: [sic] Space  
for International Cooperation and  
Zutphen: Dat Bolwerck**



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**November 2023**

# Project proposal for Artist-in-Residence in Athens: [sic] Space for International Cooperation and Zutphen: Dat Bolwerck

## Current Working Practice

As a ceramic artist, I specialize in experimenting with materials and exploring soil as a unique form of artistic expression. In recent years, I have incorporated locally sourced soil into my works. In 2022, I created "Natural or Artificial I" in Fränsta, Sweden, by blending local soil with clay to craft lifelike stones that delve into the relationship between humans and nature. In 2023, I utilized 24 different types of soil from Madou, Tainan, Taiwan, to construct the installation 'Breathing Soil'. Each soil type represents distinct agricultural activities or landscapes. To preserve the soil's original colors, I refrained from firing the pieces and instead transformed my inspiration into a large-scale, site-specific installation, inviting viewers to physically immerse themselves in the soil.

## The Fellowship Embedded in My Practice

During the Art Futures residency, I am continuing to use local soil combined with water to create imagery that delves into the impact of the natural environment, specifically concentrating on the interplay between the ocean, rivers, and human activities. Despite the diversity of human responses to the environment, what are the common human characteristics across cultures and time?

### **Art, as a method, enables us to perceive connections among various elements within intricate contexts.**

Confronted by the philosophical query, "What is our origin and future?" my attention is drawn to soil. Soil embodies life and death—it nurtures life, such as plants, provides sustenance to other life forms, including humans, and receives and transmutes decay. Athens, nestled in the Mediterranean region, experiences a Mediterranean climate, while Zutphen is situated on the river IJssel and features a temperate maritime climate. Owing to these climatic and geographical disparities, these two cities possess distinct cultures. How can we artistically express regional characteristics while simultaneously resonating with individuals from diverse backgrounds? Soil has the potential to convey stories, as it not only documents regional traits but also serves as a vital foundation for our living.

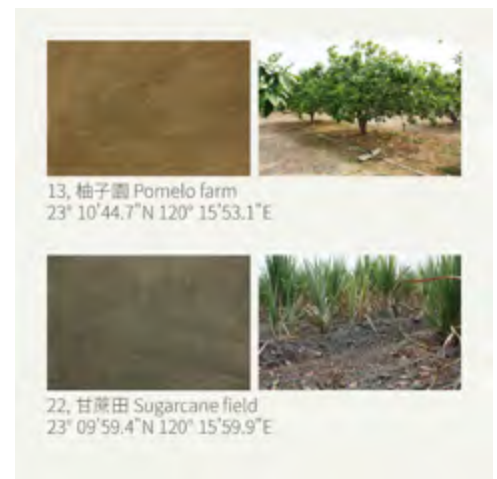


Image 1: Each soil type represents different agricultural activities.



Image 2: Soil-made image

I intend to draw inspiration from an agricultural perspective, as agriculture stands at the

intersection of nature (each region has its own crops to grow based on natural conditions) and human society (people have an influence on what kind of crops to grow and how to cook them).

### **Creative Outcomes of The Fellowship Period and Digitization**

Drawing from the information I've gathered from the website and Zoom meetings, I am thrilled about the potential to engage with the local community. The creative outcomes of the residency could be interactive events or presentations. My intention is to share these outcomes with the local audience in both Athens and Zutphen.

Digitization serves as a method to overcome geographical limitations. Therefore, I will incorporate the potential for digital presentation into the developmental process, thereby integrating digitization as an essential facet of the artistic practice, rather than merely a recording technique.

### **Sharing and Documentation**

In previous residency projects, I have enthusiastically shared my creative process through Instagram and physical documentation. For instance, I created this book in an attempt to convey a part of the exhibition's spirit through the tactile experience of hands and paper, since soil cannot be taken abroad.

I view this residency period as a valuable opportunity for mutual learning and growth. I am dedicated to establishing meaningful connections and collaborations with other community members, artists, and curators.



Image 3: [Sample of documentation \(book\)](#) and [links to instagram:](https://www.instagram.com/p/CtjpGr6lQ-c/) <https://www.instagram.com/p/CtjpGr6lQ-c/>

## Work plan for 4 months on-site residency and pre-research

Date	Plan
1. November 2023 - 16. February 2024	Collection of references, ideas for both residencies
17. February 2024 - 20. March 2024	Working on a more concrete plan
21. March - 14. April 2024	Preparation for the residency, including gathering the necessary tools, materials, etc.
<b>On-Site Residency in Athens from 15. April to 15. June 2023</b>	
15. April - 27. April 2024	Exchange, collaborate, be inspired by the local community
28. April - 11. May 2024	Field research, collection of materials (soil) and development of the artistic concept
12. May - 15. June 2024	Production and presentation
15. July - 15. August 2024	Reflection on the residency in Athens and collection of references, ideas for the residency in Zutphen
16. August - 15. September 2024	Working on a more concrete plan
<b>On-Site Residency in Zutphen from 16 September to 17 November 2024</b>	
16. September - 28. September 2024	Exchange, collaborate, be inspired by the local community
29. September - 12. October 2024	Field research, collection of materials (soil) and development of the artistic concept
13. October - 17. November 2024	Production and presentation